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NEWSLETTER

"Observe good faith and justice towards all nations;

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cultivate peace and harmony with all." ---George Washington

Acting Editor: Kerry Jellison

Redefining National Security: The Next President's Agenda

The following article was excerpted from *Nucleus* magazine, Summer 1988

The next president of the United States will have the opportunity to lead the United States into a new era of national security. By capitalizing on recent arms control breakthroughs and changes in the Soviet Union, the US can reduce both the risks and the burdens of defense. Together, the two superpowers can decisively break their historic pattern of intense military competition and finally put the Cold War behind them.

The political and ideological underpinnings of the superpower conflict are eroding. The US has largely succeeded in its postwar goal of containing Soviet expansion. Both countries have a strong interest in reordering their priorities to address urgent economic needs. In these circumstances, their massive military confrontation--including 50,000 nuclear weapons and hundreds of billions of dollars in spending--has become increasingly obsolete. To be sure, real conflicts of interest will continue to divide the superpowers. But the enormous costs and risks of the arms race have grown vastly disproportionate, dominating and distorting the superpower relationship while draining resources needed elsewhere.

It is time to remove the arms race from the center stage of US-Soviet relations and to adopt a broader concept of national security more suited to the real challenges facing America. Many of the most critical challenges to our security---trade relations, environmental pollution, and drugs, for example---call for diplomatic and economic solutions rather than military ones. By seizing the present opportunity to reverse the arms race, the new administration can free itself to address these problems.

In order to wind down the US-Soviet military competition and strengthen global security, the next president should give four key goals his top priority:

- Deep, stabilizing cuts in US and Soviet arsenals.
- Prevention of an arms race in space.
- Dismantling the East-West military standoff in Europe.
- Controlling the proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons.

These goals are closely interconnected. Sharp reductions in nuclear arsenals are the heart of the program; they are the most dramatic step that can be taken to reverse the arms race and create political momentum for further improvements in US-Soviet relations. But deep cuts cannot be isolated from other changes in security arrangements.

They will demand a prior arrangement to restrict space weapons and will in turn require greater efforts to control and reduce conventional arms, especially in Europe. And, as the US-Soviet nuclear arms race winds down, the acquisition of nuclear weapons by new countries---or by terrorists---will demand growing attention.

When the new administration takes office, its scope for action on national security policy will be strongly influenced by the following broad trends:

Arms control. The possibilities for ambitious arms control are greater than ever before, but the momentum has slipped in 1988. Both superpowers are committed in principle to a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) that would cut their long-range nuclear forces in half, to 6000 warheads each. Their 1987 agreement to eliminate intermediate-range forces (the INF Treaty) set valuable precedents, including the actual destruction of missiles and extensive on-site verification. However, it dealt with weapons of lesser importance and if not followed by a START agreement will be of questionable significance.

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Hiroshima Day Activities

Potluck August 6 - 6:00 pm at Bishop City Park

On August 6, 1945, 200,000 civilians were killed by a single nuclear weapon dropped on Hiroshima. In addition to the immediate devastation, the effects of radioactive fallout were felt for years afterward. In 1954 a twelve-year-old girl named Sadako Sasaki was diagnosed to have acute leukemia which resulted from radiation exposure from the bomb. She began to fold paper cranes, since in Japan it is thought that 1000 paper cranes will bring health and prosperity. However, Sadako managed to fold only 964 before she died. After her death thousands of cranes from all over Japan were sent and today the Hiroshima Memorial receives cranes with wishes for peace from all over the world.

This coming August 6 marks the 43rd anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. The International Test Ban Campaign has designated August 5, 1988 (the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Partial Test Ban Treaty) as International Test Ban Day. SNAP will commemorate these events on Saturday, August 6 at 6:00 pm at the Bishop City Park with a potluck, educational displays and a crane folding activity. We welcome everyone to join us.

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Fall Colors Peace Flight

We need your help to celebrate world peace and the fall colors of the Owens Valley. SNAP and High Sierra Ballooning will co-sponsor a balloon rally October 22 and 23, 1988. Banners with peaceful slogans will be flown from balloons, and we need you to help make them. Sunrise flights are to be on Saturday and Sunday with a Saturday evening potluck barbeque and country dance taking place in the Bishop City Park.

We need your support!! Banner parties, housing for pilots and families, food organization, local promotion, etc. must be planned.

If you can help, please call Robert Atlee at 873-5838 and leave a message, or write to 201 S. Warren St., Bishop, CA, 93514.

Bits and Pieces

Hidden Costs of the Arms Race: On July 23, 1988 the *LA Times* reported that Japan's aid to poorer countries now exceeds that of the United States. Japan will offer \$10 billion to needy countries in the form of grants, low-interest loans, and consulting. The US budget for foreign aid is \$8.65 billion, down from \$9.25 billion in 1987.

Scientists Boycott Weapons Research: The same issue of the *LA Times* reported that 500 US scientists have pledged to boycott research on biological and chemical weapons, urging others to follow suit. Scientists have become alarmed at the increased support these projects have been getting from the Reagan Administration.

The Democrats and the Arms Race: Although the Democrats rejected a "no first use" platform plank at their recent National Convention, advocates of arms control are encouraged. In late night negotiations with the Jackson campaign, aided by members of SANE/FREEZE, the Dukakis campaign agreed to the following platform language: "Promptly initiate a mutual moratorium on missile flight testing and halt all nuclear weapons testing."

September SNAP Meeting: Second Annual Labor Day Picnic

Mark your calendars for the second annual SNAP Labor Day Picnic in Bishop. There will be no meeting at our usual Sunday time, instead we will have a picnic meeting on Labor Day, Monday, September 5, in the afternoon. Music and non-competitive New Games are planned. See the August newsletter for details.

Update: American Peace Test

The American Peace Test (APT), sponsors of several nuclear test ban demonstrations at the Nevada Test Site, is going through a cathartic time of reorganizing. Several key people have resigned and the group held a reorganization meeting on Memorial Day Weekend which resulted in the selection of a steering committee and a refocussing of strategy. The group decided on a dual goal: the ending of nuclear testing, using the building of grassroots communities of resistance as a vehicle, and building the ground work to confront first strike programs and missile flight testing as the logical next step when warhead testing ends.

APT is also going through a financial crisis. Their fundraiser has resigned and they have large debts, not to mention a need for salaries and operating expenses. Donations may be sent to APT, PO Box 26725, Las Vegas, NV, 89126-6725.

Reclaim the Test Site II - April 7-16, 1989

APT is pleased to announce the dates for their next large action at the Nevada Test Site. Called Reclaim the Test Site II, the action will run from April 7-16, 1989. The first Reclaim the Test Site action, last March, was the largest intentional nonviolent civil resistance in US history-8000 participants and 2065 arrests.

The emphasis of next year's action will be threefold:

1. To generate a list of 1000 people who are willing to risk a 6-month jail term by hiking into ground zero.
2. To strengthen and build communities of resistance by offering workshops in the areas of fundraising, racism, sexism, nonviolent parenting, etc.
3. To accentuate the means by which the military-industrial-academic complex disenfranchises large segments of our population.

APT is looking for input from everyone. If you have any skills, money, workshop, or scenario suggestions to share for Reclaim the Test Site II, contact them at the above address or call 702/731-9644. Or contact Bob Jellison, our SNAP APT Affinity Group Coordinator, at 873-6445.

Note: New APT Testing Alert Network Hotline number 702/731-9646.

HELP SUPPORT SNAP!

Please send your contributions to:

**Sierra Nevada Alliance for Peace
PO Box 132
Bishop, CA 93514**

FROM THE EDITOR: Thanks to this month's contributors and the folks who helped get this out: Robert Atlee, Mark Bagley, Jeff Cook, Bob Jellison, and Irene Yamashita.

The Next President's Agenda

Continued from page 1...

New Soviet leadership. Ongoing changes in the Soviet Union may allow a much broader range of cooperation between the superpowers than previously was possible.

General Secretary Gorbachev's domestic reform goals create a strong Soviet interest in reducing the burden of the arms race and in closer economic and technological ties to the West. Under Gorbachev, the Soviet Union has shown unprecedented flexibility and adroitness in arms control negotiations, has endorsed the principle of "sufficiency" as a guide to military forces, and has begun to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Weapons Technology. Advances in weapons technology continue to create new dangers despite arms control. Current technological trends threaten to produce new sources of instability and challenges to arms control in the 1990s. These trends are encouraged by official nuclear "war-fighting" doctrines that place a premium on highly accurate weapons designed to attack the adversary's nuclear forces and command systems with little or no warning. Among the new nuclear weapons in the US development pipeline are maneuvering and earth-penetrating warheads and "third generation" warheads designed for a variety of exotic war-fighting missions.

Economic Pressures. Prominently in the background of all the new administration's national security choices will be pressures to reduce the budget deficit and restore American economic vitality. Regardless of who is elected, the defense budget is likely to grow little if at all over the next few years; the huge military buildup of the early 1980s is over.

Widespread concern about US competitiveness will also be an important influence on national security policy. The American public now views economic competition from Japan and Western Europe as a greater threat than Soviet military power, and would welcome a shift in US investment from military to civilian applications better oriented to world markets.

The Global Diffusion of Power. Evidence of the superpowers' declining ability to control world events abounds: international terrorism; intractable regional conflicts in the Middle East and Persian Gulf; the proliferation of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles; failed interventions in Afghanistan and Central America. There are severe limits on the effectiveness of unilateral US action. The new administration will find that effective action on security problems often demands coordination with allies, the Soviet Union, and other involved countries. The same is true of global economic and environmental issues, which are a growing influence on US national security.

A Near-Term Agenda

The new administration should give first priority to the following measures:

Reverse the Nuclear Arms Race

- Complete the START agreement and begin the process of deep nuclear reductions.
- Use cuts to reshape the composition of US and Soviet forces-eliminating the most threatening weapons first and moving toward greater reliance on single-warhead, less-vulnerable nuclear weapons to increase stability.
- Replace nuclear "war-fighting" illusions with a more modest and realistic deterrence strategy.
- Limit and then halt explosive nuclear testing to slow the pace of weapons innovation.
- Negotiate a ban on flight tests of new MIRVed missiles.

Prevent an Arms Race in Space

- Reaffirm support for the ABM Treaty and its traditional interpretation, which bans development and testing of "star wars" defenses.
- Reach superpower agreement on how to apply the treaty to modern defensive technologies.
- Negotiate a ban on testing or deployment of antisatellite weapons.
- Reorient the US missile defense program, replacing SDI with a coherent, treaty compliant research program.

Reduce Conventional Forces in Europe

- Use the forthcoming Atlantic-to-the-Urals arms talks to begin a process of dismantling the military confrontation between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.
- Seek initial reductions of tanks and artillery to equal ceilings (requiring much larger Warsaw Pact cuts) on the central front.
- Negotiate constraints on military activities and deployments as an interim step to increase stability and reduce fears of a surprise attack.

Slow Nuclear and Chemical Proliferation

- Develop a concerted strategy for renewing and strengthening the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which expires in 1995.
- Negotiate stronger export controls on nuclear technology and materials (including black-market transactions) and ballistic missiles.
- Make strong diplomatic efforts to head off nuclear arms races in South Asia and the Middle East.
- Complete the chemical weapons treaty now being negotiated at Geneva, and use diplomatic efforts to halt the use of chemicals in regional conflicts.

For over 40 years, the United States has defined its national security largely in terms of military competition with the Soviet Union. This fixation has shaped our domestic economy and our foreign diplomacy in ways that severely handicap our ability to cope with the realities of the world today. As the Moscow summit has shown, even President Reagan now accepts the possibility of ending this fixation. His successor will have no more important responsibility than to seize the opportunity.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND ACTION ALERTS

The House/Senate conference agreement on the Fiscal Year 1989 Defense Authorization Bill was approved in the House by a vote of 229 to 183. The Senate approved the conference report the same day. The bill now awaits the President's signature. No veto is expected, although the President will probably not sign it, in which case it will be passed by default.

The authorization bill conference report contains constructive arms control provisions on the ABM and SALT II Treaties, a nuclear test ban readiness program, a Star Wars funding cut, a moratorium on depressed trajectory missile flight testing, and conditional funding of the MX Missile basing mode research.

The Fiscal Year 1989 Defense Appropriations Bill is likely to contain the same provisions that were approved in

the defense authorization bill conference. The House has already approved their appropriations bill, and the Senate is likely to consider theirs sometime in the next few weeks.

ACTION ALERT: The upcoming Senate race in California between Democrat Leo McCarthy and Republican incumbent Pete Wilson will be critical. The Senate has often blocked important arms control measures by only a few votes and Wilson's voting record is abysmal on arms control. For more information on helping the McCarthy campaign, write to the Council for a Liveable World, 20 Park Plaza, Boston, MA, 02116.

For updated legislative information, call the Council for a Liveable World:

202/543-0006 (recorded message)

202/543-4100 (questions)

Hiroshima Day Activities

Saturday, August 6

6:00 pm - Bishop City Park

2nd Annual SNAP Labor Day Picnic

Monday, September 5 at Mill Pond

Sierra Nevada Alliance for Peace
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